

Student Safety in Schools and SROs



Clint Campion | Officer John Carroll

Role of School Resource Officers

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- Presence in schools, including high schools, middle schools and elementary schools.
- John covers Service High School (his primary duty location), as well as SAVE, Hanshew Middle School and 10 elementary schools



Role of School Resource Officers



- Develop partnerships between law enforcement and the schools to provide a safe working and learning environment.
- Provide positive law enforcement influence that concentrates on safety and security.

Role of School Resource Officers

- Proactive engagement with school administrators, teachers, staff and students.
- Attempt to reduce juvenile crime through law enforcement and education and prevention programs.

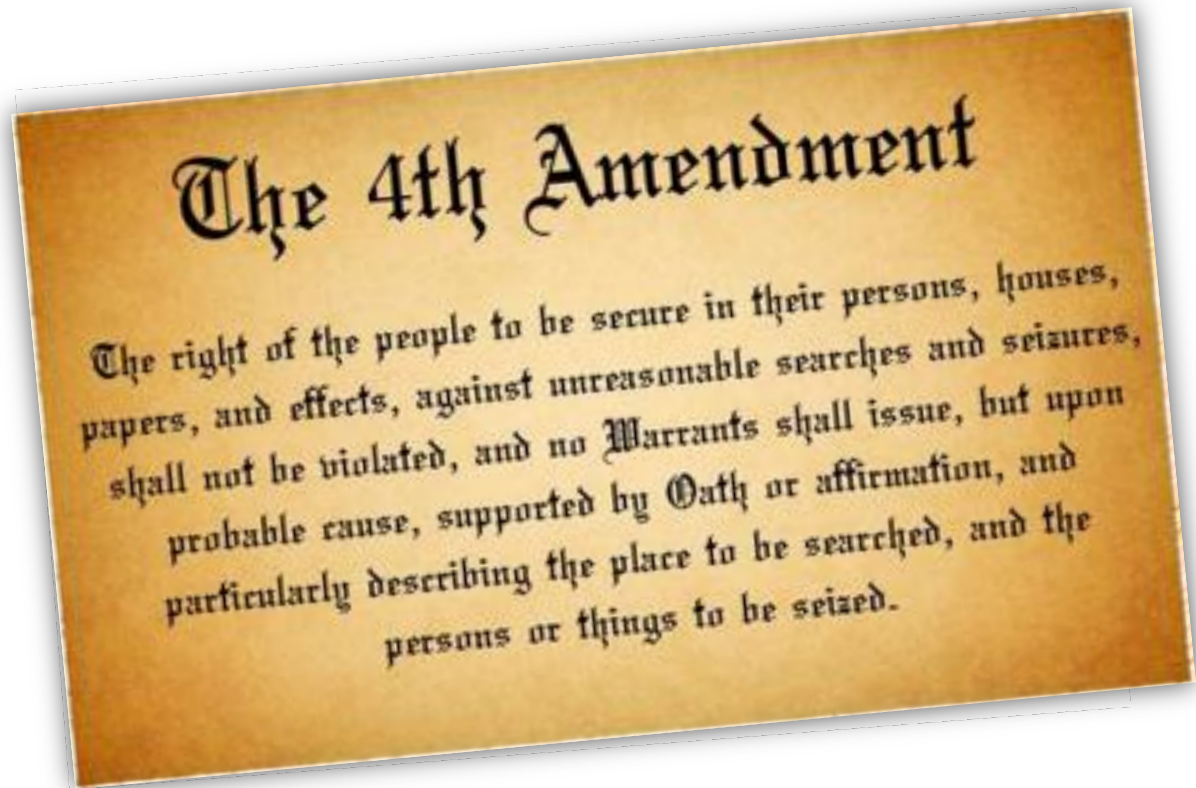


Benefits of School Resource Officers

- Presence in schools = much faster response times to law enforcement incidents than officers responding to schools.
- Engagement with students about concerns at home.
- Observation of students who may be off or loners.
- Deterrence of potential incidents.



Benefits of School Resource Officers



- Prevention presentations on cyberbullying, social media.
- Educational presentations on use of force by law enforcement, 4th Amendment issues, etc.
- Fulfillment of mandatory reporting requirements.

Mandatory Reporting

- Mandatory reporters include teachers, school administrative staff, athletic coaches. (AS 47.17.020(a)(2)).
- Peace officers (AS 47.17.020(a)(3)).
- Volunteers who put in more than 20 hours a week in one-month or four hours a week for four consecutive weeks. AS 47.17.020(j).
- An immediate mandatory report to the Office of Children's Services is required if there is **reasonable cause** to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect. AS 47.17.020(a).
- A mandatory reporter may not report the harm to a supervisor in lieu of OCS or a peace officer. AS 47.17.020(g).

Mandatory Reporting

- A mandatory report may be made to a peace officer if immediate action is necessary for the well-being of the child. The peace officer must immediately take action to protect the child and must notify the nearest OCS office.



Student Indicators of Abuse or Neglect

Student Indicators of Abuse or Neglect

- Students who are frequently late or absent.
- Students who are reluctant to go home after school.
- Students who are inadequately dressed.
- Students with physical injuries such as bruises or welts.



Student Indicators of Abuse or Neglect



- Students who are hyperactive, destructive, or aggressive.
- Students who are withdrawn, passive, overly compliant.
- Students with obvious medical needs or who are undernourished.
- Students who are tired, lethargic, listless.

SRO Assignment is not for
Everyone

SRO Assignment is not for Everyone

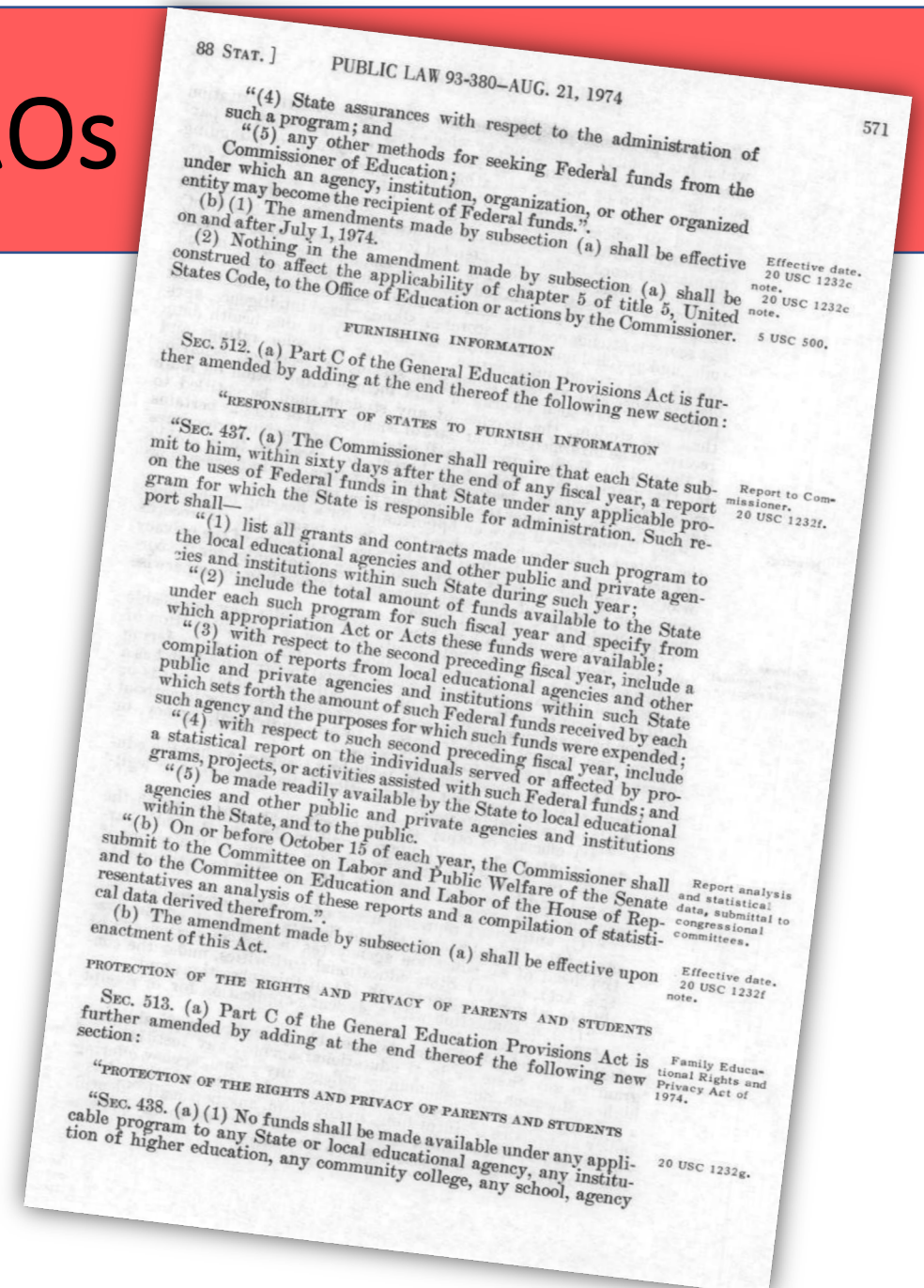
- You must have a passion for working with kids on a daily basis.
- The goal is for students to see you as a person and not just a police officer.
- There is a lot less action as an SRO, butyou do have to arrest juveniles regularly, e.g., drugs or guns at school.



Applicability of FERPA to SROs

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- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) generally requires parental consent before a “school official” may disclose student education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in the records.



Applicability of FERPA to SROs

- FERPA allows school official to disclose student education records to maintain school safety.
- An SRO can be considered a school official under certain conditions who may use PII from student education records to promote school safety and physical security of students and staff.

Applicability of FERPA to SROs

- Schools without SROs may still work with peace officers who could qualify as school officials entitled to PII from student education records.

Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

- The Juvenile Delinquency system is designed to protect the community, hold offenders accountable and equip juvenile offenders with skills to live responsibly and productively. AS 47.12.010.
- Each year in Alaska, between 1,500-3,000 juveniles are charged with offenses in the juvenile delinquency system.

Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

- The records of the juvenile delinquency system are **confidential** but may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies and to school officials (in limited circumstances to support the student).
- AS 47.12.300-310.



Role of SROs in Investigations at Schools

- *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* permits warrantless searches by 'school officials' based on reasonable suspicion. What about school resource officers?



Schools' Responsibility to Keep Students Safe

Schools' Responsibility to Keep Students Safe

- Schools are responsible to provide a safe environment to students and staff.
- Schools could be held liable if an incident could have reasonably been prevented. For example, a school district in Indiana was held liable for a school shooting where school officials negligently left a door unlocked and failed to warn staff that a student posed a threat.



Schools' Responsibility to Keep Students Safe

- Schools may not be held liable in truly extraordinary and unique emergency situations such as the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.



Schools' Responsibility to Keep Students Safe

- School districts have been held liable for harm caused to students by other students for acts of sexual misconduct against other students
- Cyberbullying / sexual harassment
- Suicide

KOWALSKI V. BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

United States of America

Title:
Kowalski v. Berkeley County Schools

Court:
United States 4th Circuit Court of Appeals

Citation:
652 F.3d 565 (4th Cir. 2011).

Date:
27 July 2011

Instruments Cited:
United States Constitution; Bill of Rights, Amendment 1 (right to free speech); Amendment 8 (right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment); Amendment 14 (right to due process and equal protection of the law)
West Virginia Constitution; state law (intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress)

Case Summary:

Background:
A West Virginia high school administration suspended a high school student - Ms Kowalski - for creating and interacting with a MySpace webpage entitled "S.A.S.H." which stood for "Students Against Sluts Herpes." The content of the webpage was mainly devoted to ridiculing a fellow student.

Ms Kowalski had used her home computer to create the MySpace page and invited 100 people to join the page. About two dozen of her classmates joined the group where they could partake in an interactive chat and post photographs. Some students of the high school accessed the page from the school's computers. One student uploaded pictures of himself making disrespectful gestures and holding signs degrading the victim of the page. Other students from the school posted comments regarding victim and her alleged sexually transmitted disease.

How to Keep Students Safe at School

How to Keep Students Safe at School



- In 2018, there were 94 gun violence incidents at U.S. schools, the most since 1970, when data was first collected. These incidents resulted in 55 deaths, including the shooters.
- School shootings are planned, not random. What signs to look for?

How to Keep Students Safe at School

- How can school officials reduce the likelihood of school shootings?
- How can schools without SROs prepare for incidents of school violence?
- Should you light a fire in the hallway to practice a fire drill? What are the risks of active shooter drills in schools?

EDUCATION

Experts Worry Active Shooter Drills In Schools Could Be Traumatic For Students

November 10, 2019 · 10:23 AM ET
Heard on Weekend Edition Sunday



LULU GARCIA-NAVARRO



SOPHIA ALVAREZ BOYD

JAMES DOUBEK



5-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST



Authorities perform an active shooter drill at Park High School on April 27, 2018 in Livingston, Mont. Some experts question the methods of active shooter drills.
William Campbell/Corbis via Getty Images

A regular drumbeat of mass shootings in the U.S., both inside schools and out, has ramped up pressure on education and law enforcement officials to do all they can to prevent the next attack.

Close to all public schools in the U.S. conducted some kind of lockdown drill in 2015-2016, according to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#).

Last year, 57% of teens told researchers they worry about a shooting happening at their school. A slightly higher percentage of parents of teenagers, 63%, fear a shooting at their child's school, [the Pew Research Center found](#).